

► Sunday, October 26, 2008, Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ex 22:20-26; Ps 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51; I Thes 1:5-10; Mt 22:34-40

Week # 10: Main Theme: Fostering the vocation to love in our society.

What is your vocation? Most people probably think that the word “vocation” refers to becoming a priest or a nun: “He has a vocation,” we say about someone who is called to become a priest. But every human being has a vocation from God. “Vocation” means “calling.” What is God calling you to? Only you can find that out, through prayer, and only you can fulfill your vocation. Are you called to the priesthood? Are you called to religious life? Are you called to marriage?

You can say one thing about every person’s vocation: each and every one of us is called to love. Jesus tells us that today in Matthew: love of God and love of neighbor summarize how God wants human beings to act. It is only through love of God and love of neighbor that we can become happy! As Pope John Paul II said, “Man cannot live without love. He remains a being that is incomprehensible for himself, his life is senseless,” without love.

Most people live out their vocation to love as married persons—as a husband or as a wife, as a father or a mother. The first reading reminds us that societies can make loving easier or more difficult. There are many ways in which our society does not protect the practice of true human and Christian love in marriage and the family. Let us pray that we are given the courage to love and the wisdom to help our society become more welcoming to God’s plan for human happiness: a plan in which sex and marriage are inseparable and in which marriage is the union of one man and one woman for life and open to life.

Bulletin: “Man cannot live without love. He remains a being that is incomprehensible for himself, his life is senseless, if love is not revealed to him, if he does not encounter love, if he does not experience it and make it his own, if he does not participate intimately in it.”

Pope John Paul II, *Redemptor Hominis*, #10

Suggested bulletin insert: “Cohabitation vs. Marriage: What’s the Difference?”